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### SB98-13/14: Future of Academic Programs

Nico Heimlich-Bowler

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**The Associated Students of The University of Montana**  
**Resolution Regarding Future of Academic Programs**  
**April 30, 2014**  
**SB98-13/14**

**Authored by: Gemma Heimlich-Bowler, ASUM Senator**  
**Sponsor: Danielle Sewell, Anita Green, Ryan Hazen, Caleb Chestnut, Shelby Ryann**  
**Dolezal, Shelby Wheeler, and Holly Seymour, ASUM Senators**

Whereas, The Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM) represents the University of Montana student body and aims to further the interests of students who seek to study under a unique and diverse curriculum;

Whereas, students across campus have expressed concern for the future of the academic majors, minors, and options they are studying in departments such as Anthropology, Political Science, Native American Studies, Liberal Studies, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, and Geography;

Whereas, ASUM appreciates that academic departments have only taken a 1% cut across the board;

Whereas, in a time of budgetary crisis some departments are losing students because they are unable to provide what students need, causing those students to take their tuition money elsewhere;

Whereas, many departments have had to leave professor positions empty, giving students fewer course options, not only in their major requirements, but in general education categories as well;

Whereas, some of the aforementioned departments are consistently offering elective courses while, because of empty professor positions, required courses for majors, options and minors are not being offered with enough frequency to effectively aid students;

Whereas, there are departments in which empty professor positions are limiting the options associated with a major that a student may take, even if they came to the University of Montana to study a such program;

Whereas, given that there are empty tenure seats in some departments, fewer graduate students have been accepted, impacting the future of not only unique but also highly desirable programs;

Whereas, due to the smaller amount of professors on the tenure track, students are experiencing inadequate advising;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the ASUM encourages department chairs and the Dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences to fund positions that allow both undergraduate and graduate students the education they came to the University of Montana to study;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that ASUM encourages department chairs and the Dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences to evaluate courses to determine the feasibility of those courses being taught by adjunct professors or graduate students qualified to teach said courses;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that ASUM supports strategic budget cuts, congruent with student demand of courses and programs, particularly such that department chairs and the Dean

52 of the College of Humanities and Sciences work to hire faculty capable of teaching graduate and  
53 undergraduate programs in classes that are required courses for an academic minor, major, or  
54 option;

55  
56 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Perry Brown,  
57 Provost, Dr. Gilbert Quintero, Chair of the Department of Anthropology, Dr. Ramona Grey,  
58 Chair of the Political Science Department, Dr. David Beck, Chair of the Native American Studies  
59 Department, Dr. Stewart Justman, Chair of Liberal Studies Program, Dr. Jannine Moutauban, Co-  
60 Chair of the Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures Department, Dr. Christine von  
61 Reichert, Chair of the Geography Department, and Chris Comer, Dean of the College of  
62 Humanities and Sciences.

63  
64 Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2014

65  
66 Passed by ASUM Senate: April 30, 2014

67 *Final Vote: 11Y-9N-5A*

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70 \_\_\_\_\_  
71 Sean McQuillan,  
72 Relations and Affairs Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mariah Williams,  
Chair of the Senate